# **Options & Alternatives to Guardianship**

When a person turns 18, they are presumed competent to make decisions about their life. Sometimes, a person might need some help making decisions and staying safe. We all do, but we call it "advice." This Star Tool shows some of the ways people can be supported to be safe and secure while living an inclusive community life. You can personalize this for your family member to help you think about what options may work best for your family. You can use this tool in combination with the Stop Light Tool. When you identify an area in which a person may need supports, the Star will help you brainstorm options beyond guardianship. Remember to start with the person's strengths and see what help is available through your family's relationships, the community and technology, before you turn to more restrictive options like guardianship.

# Technology

# **Personal Strengths & Assets**

## Relationship Based

#### **Decision Making**

 Ability to communicate wants, needs, and wishes (traditional, sign, gesture, communication device)

#### Money Management

Understands concept of money

#### Personal Safety

- Knows address, phone, other contacts
- Carries ID
- Disaster or Emergency Plan
- Ready bag for emergencies

# **Decision Making**

- Smart Phone
- Telephone
- Computer

#### Money Management

- Online Banking
- Debit Card

#### Personal Safety

- GPS Enabled Device
- Personal Safety Device
- Remote Monitoring
- Computer or Electronic locks



Options &
Alternatives
To Guardianship

#### **Decision Making**

- Personal Contract or Agency Agreement
- Power of Attorney –
   General
- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Supported (Shared)
   Decision Making

## Money Management

Joint Bank Account

#### Personal Safety

Close Family & Friends

#### **Decision Making**

- Medical Advisors (Doctor, Nurse)
- Clergy or Life Coach
- Financial Advisors
- Educational Advisors (Teacher, Counselor)

#### Money Management:

- Limited Bank Account
- Direct Deposit
- Automatic Bill Pay

#### Personal Safety

- Neighbors
- Police

# **Community Based**

#### **Decision Making**

- Temporary or Limited Guardianship
- General Guardianship

#### Money Management

- Representative Payee for SSI, SSDI, VA or other benefits
- Supplemental Special Needs Trust

#### Personal Safety

- Personal Care Attendant/Direct Care Worker
- Adult Protective Services

**Eligibility Specific** 

Opt	ions	&	<b>Alternatives</b>	to	Guardiar	ıship
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This tool was adapted by the DC Department on Disability Services, in partnership with the DC Supporting Families Community of Practice, from tools developed by University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (2015). (Last revised 2-2016)